

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 COA-02

INT-08 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 L-03 RSR-01 /157 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9721

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 14631

E. O. 11652: NA/ A

TAGS: PBOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND RAISES FISHERIES DISPUTE IN OECD COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY. IN UNUSUAL INTERVENTION IN OECD COUNCIL  
MAY 23, ICELAND' S AMBASSADOR BJORNSSON DELIVERED  
PREPARED STATEMENT OF HIS COUNTRY' S CASE IN FISHERIES  
DISPUTE. UK AND FRG REPS MADE BRIEF REPLIES. END SUMMARY.

2. GIST BJORNSSON' S STATEMENT WAS THAT, WITH EXCEPTION OF  
UK AND FRG, ICELAND HAD SETTLED AMICIBLY THROUGH  
NEGOTIATION DIFFICULTIES TO FISHING INDUSTRIES OF  
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CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARISING FROM ICELAND'S EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS TO 50 MILES. DISPUTE REACHED POINT OF "EXTREME SERIOUSNESS" LAST SATURDAY MAY 19 WHEN HMG ORDERED BRITISH WARSHIPS TO ENTER ICELANDIC FISHERY LIMITS TO "PROTECT BRITISH TRAWLERS". IN CIRCUMSTANCES, ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT THOUGHT MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF OECD COUNCIL.

3. IN BRIEF REPLY, UK AMBASSADOR GALLAGHER EMPHASIZED TWO POINTS: QUOTE

(A) THAT WE WANT TO SETTLE THIS MATTER AMICABLY. WE HAVE PUT FORWARD DETAILED PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO ALL THE ICELANDIC REQUESTS AND ARE WAITING FOR AN ICELANDIC RESPONSE;

(B) A SETTLEMENT MUST BE NEGOTIATED, NOT IMPOSED. IF THE ICELANDERS WILL REFRAIN FROM FURTHER HARRASSMENT OF OUR TRAWLERS ON THE HIGH SEAS, CONDITIONS CAN BE CREATED FOR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. IF THEY WILL NOT, WE HAVE TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE ABILITY OF OUR FISHERMEN TO FISH IN SAFETY. END QUOTE.

4. FRG DEL (GOLDSCHMIDT), WHO WAS UNINFORMED OF BJORNSSON'S INTENTION TO MAKE STATEMENT, EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT SUCH STATEMENT BE MADE TO OECD COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY SINCE DISPUTE WAS SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND UNDER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN FRG AND ICELAND.

5. AFTER FOREGOING INTERVENTIONS, SECGEN VAN LENNEP SAID COUNCIL NOTED WITH CONCERN STATEMENTS ON PROBLEMS INVOLVING ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THREE MEMBER COUNTRIES.

6. MISSION POUCHING TEXTS OF ICELANDIC AND UK STATEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM.  
BROWN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**To:** BONN  
BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
EUR  
LONDON  
OSLO  
REYKJAVIK

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